

WI-403
Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church
Hebron
Public worship

1915-16

This prominent Gothic Revival brick church stands in the center of Hebron on the corner of North Main and East Church streets. Known as Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church, the seven-course common bond brick building has a marble datestone fixed in the northwest corner establishing the start of construction in 1915. The corner entrance and bell tower is one of the principal architectural features along with the pointed arch colored glass windows that light the sanctuary. A short pyramidal spire with flared eaves shelters the belfry, which is set within four brick piers at the top of the corner tower. The spire is capped by a small metal finial in the shape of a fleur-de-lis. Extending from the north side of the main body of the church is an ell wing built at the same time. A modern addition stretches to the south.

According to E. C. Hallman's *The Garden of Methodism* published in 1948, the Nelson's Memorial congregation was started by the Reverend M. P. Johnson in the Camp Tabernacle in 1890, the year the Baltimore & Eastern Shore Railroad was laid between Claiborne and Ocean City. In honor of Sally Nelson, who donated the lot to the congregation, the original building was named Nelson's Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church when it was dedicated on February 18, 1892.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-403

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
 Religion
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
 1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Church

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-403

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200 Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Hebron ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church

street & number 200 Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Hebron state and zip code MD 21830

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title .

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-403

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church, formerly Nelson's Methodist Episcopal Church, is located at 200 North Main Street. The church stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Main and East Church streets in the center of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story brick church face northwest with the principal gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Erected in 1915-16, the single-story brick church follows an asymmetrical plan with a corner entrance tower and various gable roofed sections extending outward from the gable roofed main block. The walls are laid in seven-course common bond, and the steeply pitched roof is covered in slate. The eaves of the roof are extended and open, and the rafter ends are decorated. A three-story entrance and bell tower rises on the southwest corner of the main block. Attached to the southeast corner of the main block is a contemporaneous Sunday School wing, and to the rear is a modern brick addition.

The northwest (main) elevation is a asymmetrical facade with a dominant gable front pierced by a tripartite colored glass window framed by double rowlock arch. Fixed in the north corner of the wall is a marble datestone inscribed "Nelson M. E. Church, 1915." The edge of the roof has an extended eave with open soffits and decorative rafter ends. Rising through the north slope of the roof is an interior brick furnace flue. Piercing the foundation wall is a series of cellar windows topped by a segmental arch. The entrance and bell tower anchors the southwest corner of the church, and the pointed arch double door entrance is reached by a flight of brick steps. Flanking the pointed arch double door entrance are brick buttresses that define the corners of the tower. The first and second floor openings are set within a slightly recessed brick panel that corbells outward at the first and third floor levels. The double door entrance is filled with colored glass. The second level of the tower is marked by a round colored glass window framed by a single rowlock band of brick. The third floor of the tower incorporates the belfry, which is topped by a short pyramidal spire set between four brick piers that rise from the second floor tower base. The space between each pair of piers is filled with a turned baluster railing with louvers behind. The pyramidal roof kicks outward near the base to extend beyond the plain of the brick piers. The shed extensions of the pyramidal roof are underpinned by bracket supports. Fixed atop the pyramidal roof is a metal fleur-de-lis finial.

The southwest (East Church Street) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with the entrance tower juxtaposed a two gabled pavilions that extends from the main body of the gable roof church. A centrally positioned gabled facade is pierced by a large tripartite window filled with colored glass. Single width lancet windows, also distinguished by colored glass mark the tower and wall surface to the west, while the gabled pavilion is flanked on the east by a side entrance sheltered by a shed roof extension of the main roof.

The interior of the church was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-403

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1915-16

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This prominent Gothic Revival brick church stands in the center of Hebron on the corner of North Main and East Church streets. Known as Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church, the seven-course common bond brick building has a marble datestone fixed in the northwest corner establishing the start of construction in 1915. The corner entrance and bell tower is one of the principal architectural features along with the pointed arch colored glass windows that light the sanctuary. A short pyramidal spire with flared eaves shelters the belfry, which is set within four brick piers at the top of the corner tower. The spire is capped by a small metal finial in the shape of a fleur-de-lis. Extending from the north side of the main body of the church is an ell wing built at the same time. A modern addition stretches to the south.

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The Nelson's Memorial United Methodist Church, as it is known today, is a distinctive architectural and historical landmark in the town of Hebron.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-403

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 2/16/99

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

WATER TOWER
ELECTRIC
WATER TOWER
ELECTRIC

246
246

246
246

246
246

TO BE
SUNDAY
SCHOOL

WILSON M.E. CHURCH
(from Plans)



317
316
315
314
313

101 102 103 104 105 106 107

117 118 119 120 121 122 123

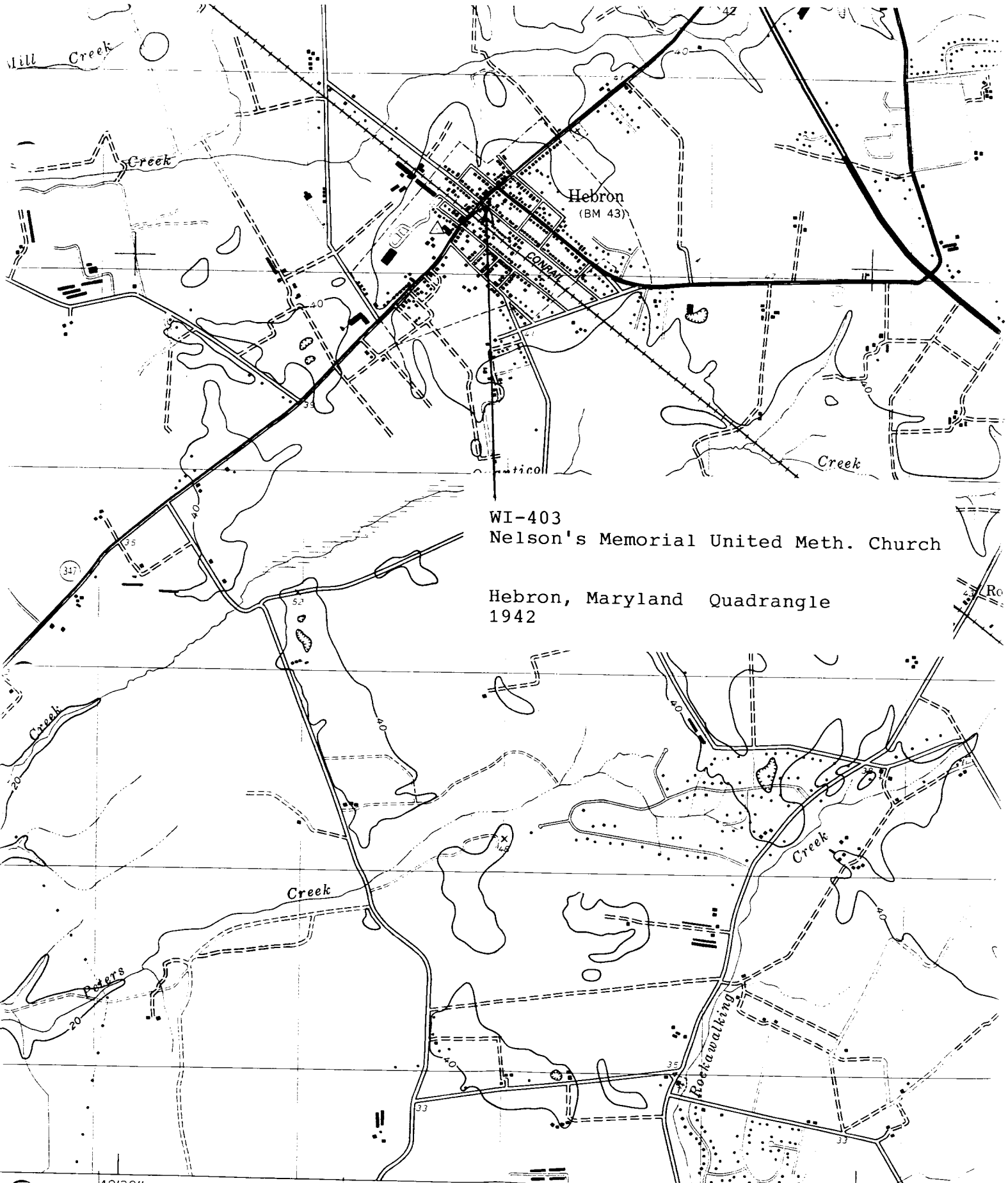
312
311
310

201 202 203 204 205 206 207

26

WI-403
Nelson's Memorial United Methodist
Church

Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1916

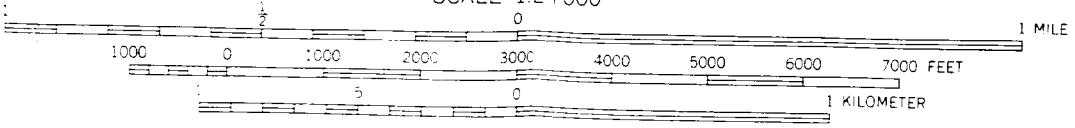


WI-403
Nelson's Memorial United Meth. Church

Hebron, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

42'30" (EDEN) 5860 I SW 40' 42' 1430 C

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



WI-4 03

Nelson's Memorandum for Mr. Tolson

Re: [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Source - [illegible]

2/99, [illegible] [illegible], [illegible]

Mr. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

1 of 1